

What Color Was I?

Grades: 1 and 2

Length: 20 minutes

South Dakota Content Standards

- ◆ 1st Grade Life Science: Describe various forms of information left by prehistoric animals and their habitats.
- ◆ 2nd Grade Life Science: Compare characteristics of extinct animals with those that are living today.

Primary Theme

The Badlands fossil and geological record reflects changing climates and the diversity of life; its study provides insight into the survival of species.

Background

Badlands National Park is well known for its excellent fossil record from “the golden age of mammals”. This time in Earth’s history occurred from 37 to 25 million years ago, and is called the Eocene and Oligocene Epochs. Dinosaurs were extinct, but humans had not yet appeared. Some of these ancient mammals have familiar forms and some look quite strange to us. But, all mammals share the basic characteristics that make them mammals. In this lesson, students color pictures of these prehistoric mammals. These coloring will be referred to during the next lessons.

Materials

- ◆ Coloring page (page 15 in this packet)
- ◆ Crayons

Procedure

1. Make copies of the coloring sheets and hand out one to each student.
2. Have the students color the animals. Students should use the colors that they think the animals really were.
3. Post them around the room so everyone can see them.
4. The prehistoric mammals found as fossils at Badlands will be discussed during the presentation of the next lessons.

